

**REMARKS**

Claims 5 – 10 and 19 are pending in the application. Claims 1 – 4, 11 – 18 and 20 – 22 are canceled by the present amendment.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has allowed claims 5 – 10 and 19.

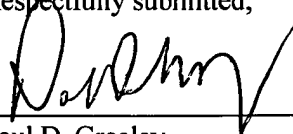
In the Office Action, claims 1 – 4, 11 – 18 and 20 – 22 are rejected<sup>1</sup>. Applicants are canceling claims 1 – 4, 11 – 18 and 20 – 22, thus rendering moot the rejection thereof.

Applicants are not conceding that the subject matter encompassed by claims 1 – 4, 11 – 18 and 20 – 22 is not patentable. Applicants are canceling claims 1 – 4, 11 – 18 and 20 – 22 solely to facilitate expeditious prosecution of the remaining claims. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to prosecute claims 1 – 4, 11 – 18 and 20 – 22, and additional claims, in one or more continuing applications.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims presented in this application patentably distinguish over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

Since this amendment neither raises new issues nor requires further consideration, entry is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner deems that the present amendment does not place the application in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request that it be entered for the purpose of appeal.

Respectfully submitted,



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11/18/08  
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Date

<sup>1</sup> The Office Action, page 3, section 5 indicates that claim 19 is rejected. However, page 7, section 19 states that claim 19 is allowed, and on 20 OCT 2008, during an informal telephone conversation, Examiner Hailu confirmed that the section 5 of the Office Action is erroneous, and that claim 19 is allowed.